

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 8 is added via this amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This is because the Examiner asserts that the term “gap” is unclear. Claim 4 is amended to clarify the language and overcome the rejection. In particular, claim 4 is amended to recite “a gap between an outer diameter *of the first bearing* and an inner diameter of the receiving portion.” Claim 4 is therefore submitted to be definite such that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103 - claims 1, 2, 4 and 7:

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ojima et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,447,271 [hereafter “Ojima”]) in view of Eda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,044,723 [hereinafter “Eda”]).

**I. THE REFERENCES DO NOT TEACH OR SUGGEST EACH OF THE
CLAIMED FEATURES**

The claims provide novel combinations of elements that are neither disclosed nor obvious in view of the applied references. These unique combinations provide particular advantages to address issues suffered by prior electro-hydraulic power steering apparatuses. In an effort to

expedite prosecution, claim 1 is amended to recite “wherein the first elastic body and the second elastic body are separate elements.” Ojima and Eda do not disclose at least these features.

As shown in Figs. 8B and 8C of Eda, the bushes 510 and 520 do not respectively include a separate first and second elastic body. Instead, they consist of a single piece of material that is bent to conform to the shape of the bearing. On the other hand, the claimed invention allows for configurations that are not obtainable by the single structure bushes of Eda, as disclosed in the exemplary embodiments of the present specification. Moreover, the bushes 510 and 520 do not act on the same bearing, instead they respectively act on different bearings.

FIG. 8B

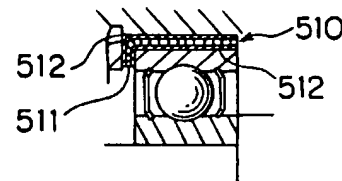
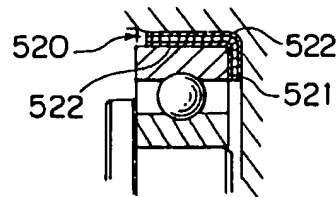


FIG. 8C



Consequently, claim 1 is deemed patentable over Ojima in view of Eda, and the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2, 4 and 7 also are patentable over the references, at least by virtue of their respective dependencies on independent claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103 - claims 5 and 6:

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ojima in view of Eda, and in further view of Watanabe et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,561,306).

Applicants submit that claims 5 and 6 are patentable over the references because the application of Watanabe et al. does not supplement Ojima and Eda in a manner that provides each feature of amended claim 1. Therefore, claims 5 and 6 are patentable over the references at least due to their respective dependencies on claim 1.

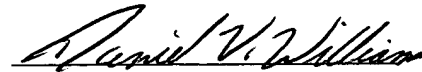
NEW CLAIM:

New claim 8 is added to obtain more varied protection for the invention. Claim 8 is deemed patentable over the art at least due to its dependency on claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 17, 2005